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waterscape.com

A GUIDE TO FACILITIES FOR BOATERS
VISITING LONDON'S CANALS AND RIVERS

VISIT LONDON BY WATER

British Waterways London

British Waterways London
1 Sheldon Square
Paddington Central
London W2 6TT

T 020 7985 7200
F 020 7985 7201
E enquiries.london@britishwaterways.co.uk
W www.waterscape.com

This leaflet provides information on just a selection of boater's facilities in London. For details of all moorings sites, including full navigation notes & information on any stoppages visit www.waterscape.com

USEFUL CONTACTS

British Waterways' emergency helpline
T 0800 47 999 47

British Waterways' Customer Service Centre
T 01923 201120

Port of London Authority (Tidal Thames)
T 020 7743 7900 **www.portoflondon.co.uk**

The Environment Agency
T 08708 506 506 **www.visitthames.co.uk**

Lee Valley Park
T 01992 702200 **www.leevalleypark.com**

USEFUL GUIDES

Nicholson's Guide to the Waterways 1
T 0141 306 3296 or via **www.amazon.co.uk**

GEO Projects waterway maps **T** 0118 939 3567

BOAT HIRE

Alvechurch Waterways Holidays, Uxbridge
T 08708 352525 **www.alvechurch.com**

Lee Valley Boat Centre, Broxbourne
T 01992 462085 **www.leevalleyboats.co.uk**

For hotel boats visit **www.flagships.co.uk**

CALL OUT ENGINEERS

Lee Valley Marina, Springfield
T 020 8806 1717

Lee Valley Marina, Stanstead Abbotts
T 01920 870499

Strickland Mobile Marine Services
T 020 8746 0766
M 07905 055950

Peter Lewis Marine Systems
T 07831 800470

Denham Yacht Station
T 01985 239811

All information has been checked at the time of going to press December 2005

British Waterways London

THE LONDON THING

Our Capital is internationally recognised as one of the best cities in the world to visit. It is home to countless historic and modern attractions, from the Tower of London to the London Eye, many of which are either on or a short stroll away from a canal or river.

British Waterways carves for 100 miles of canals and rivers and 110 acres of docks in London with visitor moorings at key sites offering perfect bases to stop, shop, dine and tour. This guide gives an overview of what's on offer with suggested journeys*, our top 10 mooring sites and a feel for what makes London so special.

For a complete list of visitor moorings and facilities for boaters in London call 020 7985 7200 or visit www.waterscape.com

Restaurants and theatres are thriving and with London hosting the 2012 Olympics in the heart of the Bow Back Rivers, what better time to explore its waterways, see the sights and take in a show!

Whether you own a boat or are hiring one, cruising along London's waterways offers a superb range of vistas and attractions, from little-known stretches of beautiful scenery to vibrant centres of entertainment. All along the way you'll see wildlife, history and life, from the Regency splendour of Little Venice to bustling bars of Camden; the gleaming office blocks of Docklands to the rural tranquility of the River Stort and industrial backwaters of the Lower Lee.

***All journeys start from Uxbridge in west London, all cruising times are approximate and miles rounded up.**

Journey 1: **TO THE HERTFORD UNION RING**

- 6 days • 52 miles

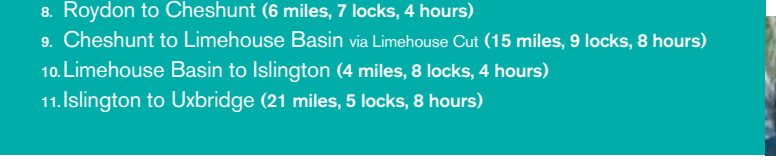
1. Uxbridge to Little Venice **(17 miles, 1 lock, 6 hours)**
2. Little Venice to Islington **(4 miles, 4 locks, 3 hours)**
3. Islington to Limehouse Basin **(4 miles, 8 locks, 3 hours)**
4. Limehouse Basin to Camden via Limehouse Cut and Hertford Union **(8 miles, 12 locks, 7 hours)**
5. Camden to Alperton **(8 miles, 0 locks, 3 hours)**
6. Alperton to Uxbridge **(11 miles, 1 lock, 4 hours)**

Highlights

- restaurants, pubs & cafes in & around beautiful Little Venice with Paddington Basin & Edgware Road shops & supermarkets close by, plus top attractions within easy reach
- Islington's Upper Street shops, restaurants, pubs & cafes, plus Sadler's Wells Theatre in easy reach
- Limehouse Basin - just a stone's throw away from Docklands, Canary Wharf, West India Quay, Museum in Docklands, Billingsgate Market & a whole host of restaurants, shops & museums
- glimpse the historic mills at Three Mills Island, gateway to the Bow Back Rivers & Olympic Zone
- exotic markets, pubs, bars & restaurants in lively Camden
- curry houses on Wembley High Street

Top Tips

- in Maida Hill & Islington tunnels boats may only pass through in one direction at a time so check for oncoming boats
- there are limited free BW visitor moorings at Limehouse



Journey 2: **THE RIVERS LEE & STORT**

- 11 days • 127 miles

1. Uxbridge to Paddington Basin **(17 miles, 1 lock, 6 hours)**
2. Paddington Basin to Victoria Park **(7 miles, 7 locks, 5 hours)**
3. Victoria Park to Waltham Abbey **(12 miles, 11 locks, 8 hours)**
4. Waltham Abbey to Hertford **(13 miles, 10 locks, 8 hours)**
5. Hertford to Harlow **(11 miles, 10 locks, 7 hours)**
6. Harlow to Bishop's Stortford **(9 miles, 9 locks, 6 hours)**
7. Bishop's Stortford to Roydon **(12 miles, 13 locks, 8 hours)**
8. Roydon to Cheshunt **(6 miles, 7 locks, 4 hours)**
9. Cheshunt to Limehouse Basin via Limehouse Cut **(15 miles, 9 locks, 8 hours)**
10. Limehouse Basin to Islington **(4 miles, 8 locks, 4 hours)**
11. Islington to Uxbridge **(21 miles, 5 locks, 8 hours)**

Highlights

- Waltham Abbey, Royal Gunpowder Mills & Gunpowder Park
- picturesque gazebos in Ware
- restaurants, pubs, antique shops & supermarket, plus castle & museum in historic Hertford
- tranquility & remoteness of River Stort
- circular walks at Harlow Mill
- ancient market town of Bishop's Stortford, with castle remains, medieval buildings, plus 16th & 17th century pubs
- timber fronted Tudor buildings & shops at Sawbridgeworth
- picturesque Roydon with 13th century church, village green with stocks & pubs up the hill
- riverside pub & access to Lee Valley Park walks at pretty Broxbourne

Top Tips

- at Stansted Lock on River Lee the swing-bridge must be swung open before using the lock
- winding for boats up to 70ft in Hertford above Folly Bridge
- width of River Stort locks is just 13ft so two narrowboats cannot fit side by side
- watch out for canoes below Burnt Mill Lock (No 6) on the River Stort & at Stonebridge Lock on the River Lee
- bridge 7 at Roydon on the River Stort can become impassable during very high water levels & flooding

Journey 3: **THE LONDON RING**

- 4 days • 50 miles

1. Uxbridge to Little Venice **(17 miles, 1 lock, 6 hours)**
2. Little Venice to Limehouse Basin **(8 miles, 12 locks, 7 hours)**
3. Limehouse Basin to Brentford via the Thames **(15 miles, 3 locks, 4 hours)**
4. Brentford to Uxbridge **(10 miles, 11 locks, 6 hours)**

Recommended for experienced boaters only. Special arrangements required. Contact the Port of London Authority for advice and tide times. T 020 7743 7900

Highlights

- Regent's Park & Zoo - see Snowdon's aviary and catch a glimpse of some of London Zoo's inhabitants
- Limehouse Basin - once the hub of the canal system nationwide now full of boats from around the world
- River Thames – a thrilling view of world-famous landmarks & fascinating monuments including Tower Bridge, the Houses of Parliament & Somerset House
- Brentford – home to a dense network of wharves, docks and bridges, shops & restaurants on the High Street, plus new riverside eateries
- Hanwell Flight of locks & Brunel's Three Bridges, both Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Top Tips

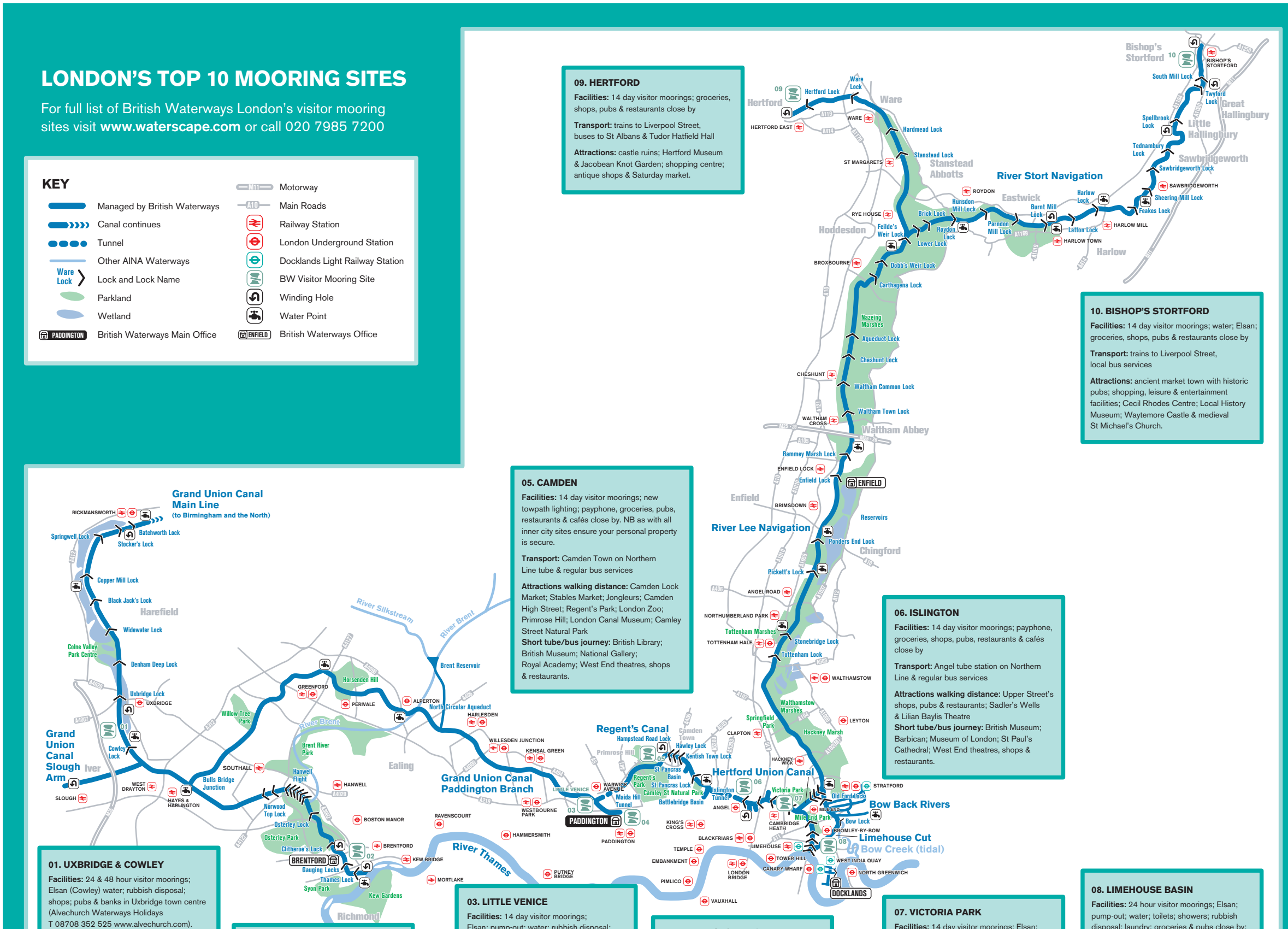
- plan carefully before going on to the River Thames
- contact British Waterways' lock keepers at Limehouse for lock & tide times **T** 020 7308 9930
- make sure you have all provisions for your Thames journey as there are no places to stop before Brentford
- stretch between Brentford gauging lock & Thames lock is tidal so be aware of limited headroom under Brentford High Street bridge. To check tides at Brentford **T** 020 8568 2779

LONDON'S TOP 10 MOORING SITES

For full list of British Waterways London's visitor mooring sites visit **www.waterscape.com** or call 020 7985 7200

KEY

- Managed by British Waterways
- Canal continues
- Tunnel
- Other AINA Waterways
- Ware Lock — Lock and Lock Name
- Parkland
- Wetland
- PADDINGTON — British Waterways Main Office
- M11 — Motorway
- A10 — Main Roads
- Railway Station
- London Underground Station
- Docklands Light Railway Station
- BW Visitor Mooring Site
- Winding Hole
- Water Point
- ENFIELD — British Waterways Office



09. HERTFORD

Facilities: 14 day visitor moorings; groceries, shops, pubs & restaurants close by

Transport: trains to Liverpool Street, buses to St Albans & Tudor Hatfield Hall

Attractions: castle ruins; Hertford Museum & Jacobean Knot Garden; shopping centre; antique shops & Saturday market.

10. BISHOP'S STORTFORD

Facilities: 14 day visitor moorings; water; Elsan; groceries, shops, pubs & restaurants close by

Transport: trains to Liverpool Street, local bus services

Attractions: ancient market town with historic pubs; shopping, leisure & entertainment facilities; Cecil Rhodes Centre; Local History Museum; Waytemore Castle & medieval St Michael's Church.

01. UXBRIDGE & COWLEY

Facilities: 24 & 48 hour visitor moorings; Elsan (Cowley) water; rubbish disposal; shops; pubs & banks in Uxbridge town centre (Alvechurch Waterways Holidays T 08708 352 525 www.alvechurch.com). Plus close by: boat services & wet dock at Highline Yachting.

Transport: local bus service, underground station & overland rail station close-by at Uxbridge

Attractions: Little Britain Country Park close by.

02. BRENTFORD

Facilities: 14 day visitor moorings north of gauging lock; Elsan; pump-out; water; rubbish disposal; toilets, laundry & showers; payphone; groceries; pubs, restaurants & cafés close-by; BW keys plus electricity & pump-out cards at BW office; boatyard; winding above gauging lock & Thames lock

Transport: Brentford Rail station (trains to Waterloo)

Attractions walking distance: Syon Park; Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew; Kew Bridge Steam Museum; Brentford High Street shops, Osterley Park & House & Boston Manor House & Park.

03. LITTLE VENICE

Facilities: 14 day visitor moorings; Elsan; pump-out; water; rubbish disposal; toilet; payphone, groceries, pubs, restaurants & cafes close-by; BW keys plus electricity & pump-out cards available from Waterside Café & BW Information Boat

Transport: underground stations close by at Warwick Avenue & Paddington Station & regular bus services

Attractions walking distance: Portobello Rd Market; London Zoo; Regent's Park; Lord's Cricket Ground; Puppet Theatre Barge
Short tube/bus journey: Madame Tussaud's; Royal Academy; National Gallery; West End theatres, shops & restaurants; Notting Hill; High Street Kensington; Hyde Park; Kensington Gardens & Palace.

04. PADDINGTON BASIN

Facilities: 7 day visitor moorings; payphone, groceries, pubs, restaurants & cafés close-by; BW keys plus electricity & pump-out cards from BW Information Boat & Waterside Café.

Transport: Edgware Road tube & Paddington Station & regular bus services

Attractions walking distance: Portobello Rd Market; London Zoo; Regent's Park; Lord's Cricket Ground
Short tube/bus journey: Madam Tussaud's & Planetarium; Royal Academy; National Gallery; West End theatres, shops & restaurants; Notting Hill; High Street Kensington; Hyde Park; Kensington Gardens & Palace.

05. CAMDEN

Facilities: 14 day visitor moorings; new towpath lighting; payphone, groceries, pubs, restaurants & cafés close by. NB as with all inner city sites ensure your personal property is secure.

Transport: Camden Town on Northern Line tube & regular bus services

Attractions walking distance: Camden Lock Market; Stables Market; Jongleurs; Camden High Street; Regent's Park; London Zoo; Primrose Hill; London Canal Museum; Camley Street Natural Park
Short tube/bus journey: British Library; British Museum; National Gallery; Royal Academy; West End theatres, shops & restaurants.

06. ISLINGTON

Facilities: 14 day visitor moorings; payphone, groceries, shops, pubs, restaurants & cafés close by

Transport: Angel tube station on Northern Line & regular bus services

Attractions walking distance: Upper Street's shops, pubs & restaurants; Sadler's Wells & Lilian Baylis Theatre
Short tube/bus journey: British Museum; Barbican; Museum of London; St Paul's Cathedral; West End theatres, shops & restaurants.

07. VICTORIA PARK

Facilities: 14 day visitor moorings; Elsan; water; toilets & rubbish disposal

Transport: Bethnal Green tube on Central Line & regular bus services

Attractions walking distance: Victoria Park; Bow Wharf restaurants, pubs & Jongleurs comedy club; Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood; Columbia Road Flower Market; Broadway Market; Roman Road
Short tube/bus journey: St Paul's Cathedral; Museum of London; Barbican; Tower Bridge & Tower of London; Spittlefields & Brick Lane.

08. LIMEHOUSE BASIN

Facilities: 24 hour visitor moorings; Elsan; pump-out; water; toilets; showers; rubbish disposal; laundry; groceries & pubs close by; BW keys & licences plus electricity & pump-out cards at marina office

Transport: Limehouse station, Docklands Light Railway

Attractions walking distance: Mile End Park; Three Mills; Ragged School Museum; Canary Wharf & West India Quay shops, restaurants, pubs; Museum in Docklands
Short DLR journey: Greenwich with Cutty Sark, Observatory, museums, markets, shops & restaurants.